

AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 28

WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 9, 1956



SECTION of the Pan American Highway in Ecuador. The roadway is now more than 80 per cent complete. When finished, it will be over 10,000 miles long—and

will link the United States, Mexico, Central and South America. Not all portions of the long highway, however, are nearly as comfortable as this one for auto travel.

Spotlight Is on Latin American Nations

Southern Lands Join United States in Observing Pan American Day

In observance of Pan American Day, April 14, this issue of the AMERICAN OBSERVER and its companion publication, the WEEKLY NEWS REVIEW, is largely devoted to Latin America. For this reason many regular features have been omitted.

NEXT Saturday—April 14—is Pan American Day. It marks the 66th anniversary of the spring day in 1890 when the American republics first banded together. The successor to that early group is today's Organization of American States (OAS), whose job it is to promote peace and cooperation among the Western Hemisphere republics.

Members of OAS are the United States and the 20 republics of Latin America. The area we call Latin America begins at our southern boundary. It stretches from the Rio Grande River to the farthest tip of South America.

Ten of the countries lie in South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela). Three are island nations of the Caribbean area (Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti). Just south of us is our closest Latin-American neigh-

bor—Mexico. On the narrow strip of land connecting Mexico and South America are the Central American lands (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama).

(The small regions in this area controlled by outside nations are not included in the term *Latin America*, as it is used in this article. These regions include British and French Guiana, Surinam—under Dutch control—British Honduras, and various West Indian islands.)

The nations of Latin America are tied together by a common background. They were colonized by the "Latin" nations of Europe. All except Haiti and Brazil were settled by Spain. Haiti was colonized by France, and Brazil by Portugal.

Geography

Latin America is a vast area, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the size of the United States. Its nations range in size from Brazil (larger than the United States) to Haiti (about the size of the state of Vermont).

This great region to the south has varied terrain and climate. There are towering mountain peaks, higher than

our own Rockies, vast wastes of desert, and humid equatorial jungles. Most of Latin America lies in the tropics, but the southernmost areas enjoy a temperate climate (as does northern Mexico).

Of all the physical features of Latin America, the mountains are most significant. A continuation of our Rockies, they extend from north to south through the whole area. Called the Sierra Madre in Mexico, they dip low at the Isthmus of Panama, but rise again in South America into the towering Andes. The highest mountains in the Western Hemisphere lie along the border of Argentina and Chile.

The mountains have profoundly affected Latin America's development. They form a major barrier to travel, trade, and communication.

Another outstanding physical feature is the great river system of the Amazon. One of the longest rivers in the world, the Amazon is navigable for 2,300 miles. It is over 150 miles wide at its mouth and drains an area more than 80 per cent as big as the entire United States. More water runs down this slow-flowing river than is contained in the Mississippi, Nile, and Yangtze together.

The plains of Argentina—known as the pampas—are another of South America's distinctive geographical characteristics. This area is fertile and supports extensive wheat-farming and cattle-raising operations.

People

The population of Latin America is believed to be slightly more than 170,000,000 (as compared to 167,000,000 in the United States). Some nations to the south of us have not had a census in many years. It is an established fact, though, that population has been increasing more in Latin America during recent years than in almost any other part of the world.

Four main types of people live in these southern lands. The *mestizos* are people of mixed ancestry. They make up a large part of the population. They are the majority group in Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, and Paraguay.

Native Indians are another large group. More than three-fifths of all the natives of Bolivia are Indians. There are many Indians in Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, and Mexico.

(Continued on page 2)



LATIN AMERICA is a vast region about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times larger than the United States and has a population of over 170,000,000

Latin America

(Continued from page 1)

The Negroes, whose ancestors were brought from Africa as slaves, are still another sizable body of people. They are among the largest groups in Panama, Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

The remaining major group is composed of persons of European descent. The countries where these people are in the majority include Argentina, Uruguay, and Costa Rica.

Agriculture

Most Latin Americans make a living from farm work. The richest agricultural area is that lying for miles outside of Buenos Aires, Argentina. In this region are many of the great cattle ranches and wheat farms for which Argentina is famous. Meat and agricultural products from that country are sold on a large scale in

Europe and in other Latin American lands.

In Brazil, cotton, coffee, rice, and cattle are raised. Wheat, tobacco, cotton, and sugar are grown in western lands of South America. Bananas and coffee are major crops in Central America. The cacao bean (for cocoa and chocolate) and chicle (for gum) are important products in several countries. Sugar cane is a big crop in Cuba and other lands in the Caribbean area.

Argentina and Brazil together account for a large part of Latin America's farm output. In these 2 countries, farms are usually very large. The average Argentine farm is about 9 times the size of the average U. S. farm. In Brazil, there are farms larger than the whole state of Oklahoma. In many nations, though, large estates have been broken up in recent years to permit more people to own land.

Despite the big crop production in some areas, total farm output in Latin America is not so large as one

might expect. Only about 5 per cent of the land is good for raising crops, and not all the good land is cultivated each year. Swamps, mountains, jungles, and deserts make many large areas unfit for cultivation. Primitive farm methods, lack of machinery, and scarcity of fertilizers also combine to keep crop yields low in many regions.

Industry

Industrial development has made rapid strides in Latin America since World War II. Furnishing a sound basis for factory growth are—in addition to farm products—the area's extensive forests and mineral resources. The latter include gold, silver, copper, tin, iron ore, petroleum, and manganese.

Industries now thriving include the refining of metals for export, assembly of automobiles, and the manufacture of cloth, shoes, soap, furniture, and other products used by people in their daily lives. Many U. S. firms have set up plants in Latin America

during the period since World War II.

A key factor in further industrialization is the construction of more power plants. Hydroelectric output (electricity produced by water power) has been going up by about 10 per cent each year. Among the more industrialized lands of Latin America are Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Mexico. In addition to many of the products already mentioned, these lands all produce that basic industrial product, steel.

The background facts we have set forth about Latin America tell only a small part of the story about this teeming region. There are many big problems which the area must solve.

Living Standards

The overwhelming majority of Latin Americans are poor. Per capita annual income ranges from an average of \$518 in Venezuela to \$100 or less in Ecuador, Haiti, Paraguay, and Bolivia. (The average American earns more than \$1,800 a year.)

There are, to be sure, small groups of wealthy persons in all these countries. They include many big landowners and—in recent years—increasing numbers of industrialists. Yet most Latin Americans are at the other end of the scale. Millions live in city slums, while millions more eke out a livelihood in remote rural areas where life has changed but little in hundreds of years.

Low income takes its toll in many ways. There are not enough schools, and, in many lands, at least half of the adults cannot read or write.

The death rate from disease is much higher in Latin America than in our country. Typhoid fever, whooping cough, smallpox, and malaria still take many lives each year. In most lands of Latin America, life expectancy at birth is less than 45 as compared to more than 68 in the United States.

Of course, the widespread poverty holds back progress in many fields. There is a great need for additional highways and railroads. Brazil is one of the more advanced countries of Latin America in many ways, yet it has only one-tenth as many miles of railway tracks as does the United States. We have 32 telephones for every 100 persons, as compared to about 2 for every 100 Latin Americans.

Yet it would be wrong to conclude that Latin America is a stagnant area where nothing is being done to raise living standards. On the contrary, these lands are keenly aware of their shortcomings. They are making progress in numerous fields.

The high school enrollment in Brazil has tripled since 1940. Venezuela last year spent record sums for new schools, and has a big, new normal school for training teachers. The school systems in Costa Rica and Nicaragua are rapidly expanding.

Several countries have adult education programs in which each person who can read and write is urged to teach his skills to another. Right now a large-scale effort is being made to supply suitable reading materials for adult beginners. New primers not only encourage the use of reading skills but spread useful knowledge on health, farming, and other subjects.

Disease is being attacked on many fronts. More than 30 health centers have been set up recently in the Amazon Valley. These centers are reaching jungle dwellers who never before



AN ARGENTINE gaucho (cowboy)



BRAZILIAN laboratory technician



NURSE and patient in Panama



DOCK WORKER in Costa Rica

have had the assistance of modern medical practices. Attempts are being made in Mexico, Brazil, and other lands to provide pure water supplies in all the villages. Malaria has already decreased drastically in such areas.

Among other efforts to raise living standards, a number of countries are making it possible for poverty-stricken natives to own their land. Mexico and some of the Central American nations have made progress along these lines. The concentration of land in the hands of a small minority of owners dates back to the early days of colonization when tremendous areas were taken over by a few favored people. While there are still many large estates, more small farmers are land-owners today than ever before.

Too Specialized

Latin American countries have always relied to a large degree on one crop or product for their prosperity. Bolivia stakes its welfare almost wholly on tin. Cuba depends largely on sugar, and Colombia's prosperity is highly dependent on coffee. The Central American lands depend mostly on bananas and coffee. Venezuela's big money-earner is petroleum.

When demand for these items in the United States and elsewhere is high, the producing nations prosper. If demand drops, though, prices fall, and these nations suffer badly. Their economies are so completely tied to one product that there is little else to which they can turn.

A solution of the problem is to cultivate new crops and start new industries, thereby reducing dependence on a single product. Some countries—Mexico and Brazil, for example—are making encouraging headway toward this goal. These countries and certain others now have their own factories for processing many of the raw

materials which they formerly sold almost entirely abroad. There are still many Latin American nations, though, which have "too many eggs in one basket."

Politics

For many years, Latin America has been plagued by revolutions. Widespread poverty and lack of education have made it impossible for most people to participate in political affairs. As a result, military leaders representing the interests of small groups of the population have frequently been able to seize power by force of arms.

In most countries, the army plays a key role in determining which group or individual is in power. In recent months there has been much political unrest in Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, and in several other lands.

Also contributing to instability have been frequent conflicts among the Latin American nations. Boundaries have often been a source of friction, and so have personal rivalries among leaders.

Yet despite the long record of dictatorships and revolutions, free government seems to be making gains in Latin America. Violent revolutions throughout the area occur less frequently than they once did. The practice of holding regular elections is becoming more widespread. Mexico, once a land torn with dissension, has been stable in recent years.

Additional experience in self-government, it is felt, will bring increasing stability in the rule of these lands. So will further educational progress. These developments will depend upon a continued rise in the standard of living. For many years, a middle class—composed of office workers, small tradesmen, and professional people—was almost non-existent in Latin America. There have been, in most of

these lands, only a small number of rich people and a large number of poor people. A good-sized middle class is needed in a country to make it stable and democratic—to prevent rule by small privileged groups.

In recent years, a middle class has begun to emerge in many Latin American lands, and as living standards continue upward, the middle class will become even stronger. As it does so, there will be—it is believed—more democracy, fewer revolts, higher general standards of living, and greater stability.

U. S. Assistance

In various ways, the United States is helping Latin America to tackle its problems. The prosperity of our southern neighbors depends to a large degree on trade, and we are Latin America's chief trading partner. Last year we bought goods worth 3½ billion dollars from the lands to the south. Our purchases consisted mainly of raw materials, including coffee, petroleum, copper, and sugar.

In return, we sold machinery, automobiles, chemicals, textiles, and other items to the Latin American nations. The goods we sold to Latin America last year were almost equal in value to what we bought from that region.

For some years we have been helping these lands to improve their school and health programs and boost farm output. We send experts in these fields to our southern friends. Our aid in loans and gifts since the end of World War II has totaled more than 1¼ billion dollars.

It is highly important to us that these nations do not come under the control of governments hostile to us. Our leaders are watching closely the efforts of the Soviet Union to cultivate closer ties with Latin America. About 3 months ago Premier Bulganin of Russia offered this region

assistance on industrial projects. His offer was regarded by U. S. officials as a bold bid for influence in the Western Hemisphere.

The Bulganin offer has not met with a favorable response. While communists are active in some countries in this hemisphere, they do not control any of the present governments. Most Latin American leaders are extremely anti-communist, and are doing everything they can to combat this movement in their lands. At the same time, many of them feel that we have given too much economic aid to Europe as compared to what we have given to Latin America.

Defense

Playing a leading part in maintaining peace in the Western Hemisphere is the Inter-American Defense Board, composed of high-ranking military officers from all the American republics. Its job is to work out mutual plans for defense of this hemisphere. A pact signed at Rio de Janeiro in 1947 pledges the Western Hemisphere republics to joint action in promoting peace and resisting aggression.

Latest figures indicate that the armed forces of the 20 independent lands to the south have a combined strength of approximately 470,000 men. Armed strength ranges all the way from Brazil's force of 120,000 to no armies at all in Panama and Costa Rica. Most Latin American countries have small navies and air forces, still in the building stage.

Our government is helping a number of these lands to strengthen and modernize their armed forces. We feel that these defense forces to the south, properly equipped and trained, can play an effective role—alongside U. S. and Canadian troops—in the defense of the Western Hemisphere.

—By HOWARD SWEET



BOLIVIAN student in a trade school



WEAVING cloth in Argentina



VENEZUELAN kindergarten pupils



CULTIVATING a garden in Peru

Newsmakers

Latin Leaders

MANY people in our own country regard all of Latin America as a land of revolutions and political unrest. But this is not an accurate view. Our southern neighbors differ from one another in politics and government, just as they do in various other respects.

It is true that Latin America has known a stormy history, and that democracy has had a difficult time taking root there (see political discussion in leading article). At present, while certain nations below the Río Grande appear to be making political progress, others are beset with trouble.

Governments of 6 prominent Latin American countries—and the men who head those governments—are discussed in the remaining paragraphs.

Argentina is in a state of unrest, following the overthrow of President Juan Peron. Constantly criticized for using dictatorial methods, Peron ruled Argentina from the middle 1940's until last autumn, when a revolt by dissatisfied military and other groups destroyed his regime.

General Eduardo Lonardi (who died about 3 weeks ago) succeeded Peron as head of the Argentine government, but was able to stay in power only a short time. General Pedro Aramburu, who replaced Lonardi, has been president since last November.

It is widely agreed that the policies of former President Peron left Argentina's economic system in a shaky and run-down condition. Supporters of General Aramburu contend that he is making a good start toward putting the nation back on its feet. Critics say they will oppose him until he re-



Kubitschek
Brazil



Odría
Peru

stores democratic government in Argentina as it existed before Peron.

Brazil installed a new president—Juscelino Kubitschek—on January 31. The inauguration came after a period of unrest and confusion, during which it appeared that Kubitschek's opponents might stage a revolt to keep him from taking office. But this development did not occur.

Kubitschek's life began in extreme poverty. He taught himself the Morse code and worked as a telegraph operator to pay his way through medical school, then became a surgeon, and later entered politics.

Kubitschek has outlined an ambitious program of economic development for his country. Supporters say he is likely to accomplish more than any previous Brazilian president. Opponents reply that he is making extravagant promises which his government won't be able to carry out.



Aramburu
Argentina



Ibañez
Chile



Ruiz Cortines
Mexico



Pérez Jiménez
Venezuela

Chile faces continuing economic problems. There are many causes of unrest in that nation. In particular, prices are rising rapidly, and increased living costs have prompted many workers to demand wage boosts. Widespread strikes have resulted.

President Carlos Ibañez del Campo, since he lacks strong support in the Chilean legislative body, has a hard time dealing with the nation's troubles.

Ibañez, who looks back on a long career as an army officer and politician, is criticized for his government's failure to deal more successfully with the nation's economic problems. Supporters, though, maintain that he is doing his best in grappling with very difficult conditions.

Mexico appears to be making good progress along the road of democracy and stable government. Her president is Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, who recently visited the United States to confer with President Eisenhower and Canadian Prime Minister St. Laurent.

Ruiz Cortines, who has spent most of his adult life in politics, became president in 1952. His friends point out that he is scrupulously honest, and argue that Mexico has made a great deal of economic progress under his administration. His opponents contend that he favors too much government interference in business.

Peru is ruled by General Manuel A. Odría. He obtained the presidency through a military revolt in 1948. Some of his rivals attempted a revolt against him as recently as last February, but it was put down.

According to the terms of Peru's constitution, Odría must leave office this summer. He has promised his people a free election next June to choose a new president. His opponents fear that he will try in one way or another to control the balloting.

Venezuela, famous for her vast deposits of oil and iron, is under the domination of "strong man" Marcos Pérez Jiménez.

The president's friends point out that Venezuela, under his leadership, is enjoying an economic boom. Critics agree that business groups are well off at the present time, but they contend that the majority of Venezuelans are not benefiting from the present prosperity. Also criticized is the dictatorial nature of the Pérez Jiménez administration. —By TOM MYER

Historical Background

CRUMBLING ruins of the Temple of the Warriors at Chichén Itzá in Mexico, remnants of the Inca city of Machu Picchu in Peru, and other relics in Latin America tell of great Indian civilizations of the past. These early civilizations existed long before the white men came to the Western Hemisphere.

The Mayas, who lived in what is now Central America and southern Mexico, are believed to have established advanced civilizations as early as 1000 B. C. They developed a hieroglyphic system of writing, somewhat like that of the Egyptians, and built large cities.

When Columbus discovered the New World in 1492, the powerful Inca empire was centered in present-day Peru. The Aztecs controlled large areas of land once inhabited by the Mayas.

Soon after the New World was discovered, explorers and adventurers conquered the Indians and seized large sections of the new land for Spain and other European countries. Foremost among the Spanish conquerors were Hernando Cortés and Francisco Pizarro.

Cortés landed in what is now Mexico in 1519. With an army of about 600 men, he took over the Aztec empire. A few years later, Pizarro became master of the Incas.

For some 300 years, from 1500 to 1800, Spaniards poured into many of the new Central and South American colonies, and the Portuguese developed the colony of Brazil. Planters settled in the conquered areas, forcing the native Indians to work for them as slaves.

Fight for freedom. Not long after our country won its freedom from Britain, an independence movement swept through Latin America. Among the heroes of this drive were Simón Bolívar, who helped liberate the northwestern and central parts of South America; José de San Martín, who crossed the Andes from Argentina and attacked the Spaniards on South America's west coast; Bernardo O'Higgins, the "George Washington" of Chile; and the priest, Miguel Hidalgo, who died for Mexican independence.

Most of the wars which set the Latin American countries free took place between 1810 and 1824, though Cuba remained a Spanish colony until 1898. Brazil gained its freedom without a fight in 1822. At that time, Pedro, the son of the Portuguese King John VI, became ruler of Brazil and declared it to be independent of Portugal.

The Latin American countries faced many new problems after winning their freedom. Before becoming independent, the people of nearly all these lands had to obey the commands of a king who lived across the sea in Spain. The native inhabitants were not trained by experience or education for self-government. Hence, it was not easy for the new countries to develop along democratic lines.

Monroe Doctrine. Meanwhile, the United States began recognizing her new southern neighbors as independent countries by 1822. In the following year, 1823, U. S. President James Monroe proclaimed the famous Mon-

roe Doctrine. Through it, he warned all European lands against seeking to gain control over any part of the new western nations. Lands of the Western Hemisphere, the United States warned, were "not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers."

The Monroe Doctrine did not get much attention during the period immediately following its announcement, but it acquired great importance later on. Our government took a firm stand, for instance, when France was trying to set up a Mexican empire in the 1860's.

Throughout much of the 1800's Latin Americans had closer ties with Spain, France, and Portugal than with us. The United States, at that time, was more concerned with problems arising from its rapid growth than with the affairs of its southern neighbors. Also, the countries south of our borders had closer cultural and language ties with certain European lands than with the United States.

But by 1898, when we became involved in the Spanish-American War, our interest in the Latin American countries began to grow. As a result of the war we acquired Puerto Rico. We also took over Cuba for a time.

New policy. In the early 1900's, we added a new idea to the Monroe Doctrine—that the United States should step in to restore order whenever serious trouble broke out in a Latin American land. It was felt that turmoil in any of the southern republics might tempt European countries to violate the Doctrine.

Under the new policy, U. S. Marines occupied certain of the Latin republics when trouble broke out there in the early 1900's. We also sent a military expedition to Mexico in 1916-17.

These U. S. actions caused deep resentment in Latin America. Our southern neighbors didn't feel we were justified in taking such steps.

But distrust of the "norteamericanos," as our southern neighbors often call us, gradually died down when our Marines were withdrawn in the 1920's and the 1930's. At the same time, we launched a genuine effort to win friends in the Western Hemisphere—a program which became known as the "Good Neighbor Policy."

In 1933 we signed a pledge that we would not intervene again in the internal affairs of the Latin American countries. In the years since then, we have signed a number of friendly agreements with these lands for cooperation in Western Hemisphere affairs.

In 1938, for instance, we and our southern neighbors signed an agreement to cooperate in case of trouble on this side of the globe, and many of the Latin American lands helped us win World War II. After that conflict, in 1947, we and the southern republics signed a Western Hemisphere defense pact in Rio de Janeiro.

—By ANTON BERLE



Simón Bolívar



A NURSE calls at a home in Bolivia—one of the Latin American lands which the United States has helped to conduct campaigns for building better health



TECHNICAL EXPERT inspecting a Nicaraguan rice field. A large proportion of U. S. aid to Latin American lands is spent to improve the output of farms.

ROUNDUP OF INFORMATION ABOUT LATIN AMERICA

Country	Population	Square Miles	Capital	President	Average Income per Person ¹	Important Products
ARGENTINA.....	19,102,000	1,073,700	Buenos Aires.....	Pedro Aramburu.....	\$358.....	meat, hides & wool, grain
BOLIVIA.....	3,198,000	416,040	La Paz & Sucre.....	Victor Paz Estenssoro.....	100.....	tin, silver, tungsten
BRAZIL.....	58,456,000	3,288,045	Rio de Janeiro.....	Juscelino Kubitschek.....	190.....	coffee, cotton, cacao
CHILE.....	6,325,500	286,396	Santiago.....	Carlos Ibañez.....	265.....	copper, nitrates, wool
COLOMBIA.....	12,657,000	439,553	Bogotá.....	Gustavo Rojas Pinilla.....	228.....	coffee, petroleum, bananas
COSTA RICA.....	933,000	19,695	San José.....	José Figueres.....	125.....	coffee, bananas, cacao
CUBA.....	5,832,000	44,208	Havana.....	Fulgencio Batista.....	299.....	sugar, tobacco, molasses
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.....	2,404,000	18,704	Ciudad Trujillo.....	Héctor B. Trujillo.....	185.....	sugar, coffee, cacao
ECUADOR.....	3,607,000	104,506	Quito.....	José Velasco Ibarra.....	98.....	cacao, bananas, coffee
EL SALVADOR.....	2,158,000	12,792	San Salvador.....	Oscar Osorio ²	175.....	coffee, cotton, vegetable oils
GUATEMALA.....	3,202,000	48,290	Guatemala City.....	Carlos Castillo Armas.....	183.....	coffee, bananas, chicle
HAITI.....	3,265,000	10,700	Port-au-Prince.....	Paul E. Magloire.....	65.....	coffee, sisal, cacao
HONDURAS.....	1,632,000	59,160	Tegucigalpa.....	Julio Lozano Díaz ³	155.....	bananas, coffee, lumber
MEXICO.....	29,675,000	758,450	Mexico City.....	Adolfo Ruiz Cortines.....	210.....	cotton, metals, petroleum
NICARAGUA.....	1,224,000	57,145	Managua.....	Anastasio Somoza.....	140.....	coffee, gold, cotton
PANAMA.....	910,000	29,127	Panama City.....	Ricardo Arias Espinosa.....	342.....	bananas, cacao, abaca
PARAGUAY.....	1,565,000	157,047	Asunción.....	Alfredo Stroessner.....	68.....	timber, cotton, quebracho
PERU.....	9,305,000	482,258	Lima.....	Manuel A. Odría.....	117.....	cotton, sugar, petroleum
URUGUAY.....	2,595,000	72,153	Montevideo.....	Alberto F. Zubiría ⁴	253.....	wool, meat, grain
VENEZUELA.....	5,774,000	352,150	Caracas.....	Marcos Pérez Jiménez.....	518.....	petroleum, iron ore, coffee

¹ Equivalent in U. S. dollars, latest available estimate on annual basis.

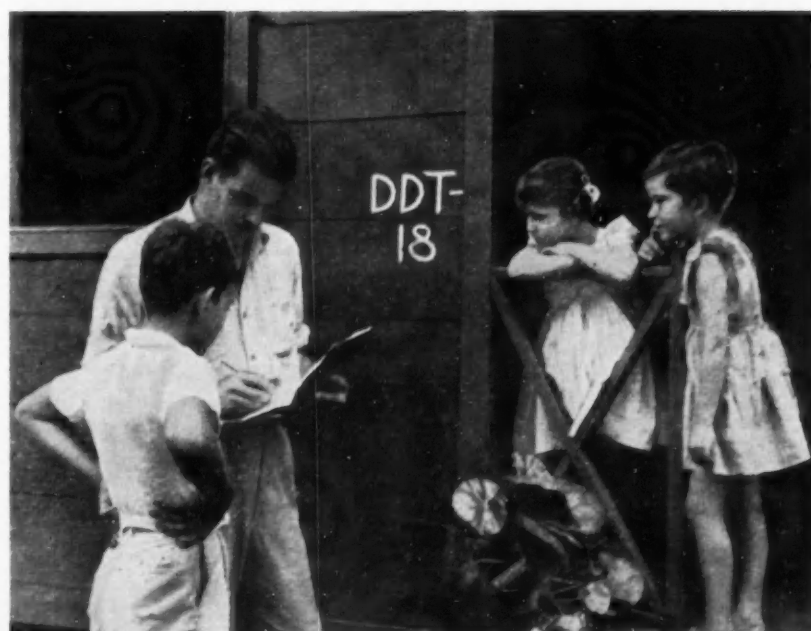
² José María Lemus is to replace Osorio in September.

³ Officially "Supreme Chief of State."

⁴ Officially "President of the National Council of Government."

FOR COMPARISON: Our 48 states cover 3,022,387 square miles; New York State has 49,576, and Colorado has 104,247. Estimated average income per person

in the U. S. is \$1,847. Note the 2 capital cities in Bolivia. Sucre is the "official capital," but government leaders generally do almost all of their work in La Paz.



CURIOUS YOUNGSTERS watch as an inspector checks a Costa Rican house, which has been treated with DDT—an effective way to stop the spread of malaria



GIRLS in Latin America learn to sew at school, just as in the United States. The young student here is getting instruction from a home economics teacher.

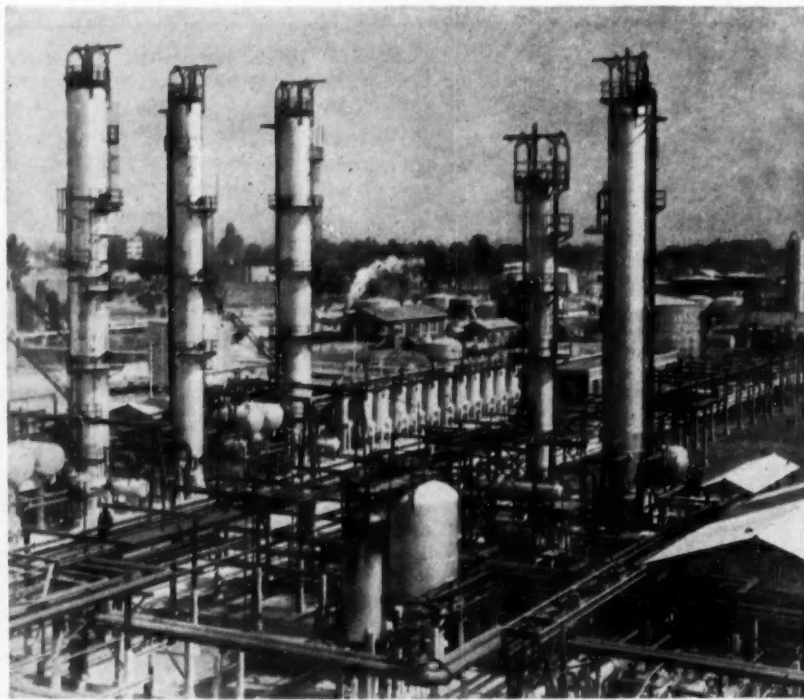


SAO PAULO, BRAZIL, is a modern, fast-growing manufacturing city. Today, there are some 2,500,000 people living here. Factories turn out a great variety

of products—from pencils, pens, and matches to textiles, tires, machinery, and steel. Sao Paulo is also a center for firms preparing and marketing coffee.



HARVESTED COFFEE in Brazil is raked over brick terraces and left to dry in the sun. Getting the coffee ready for packaging usually takes about 10 days.



OIL REFINERY IN MEXICO. That land, Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru are all important producers of petroleum, which is sold to us and other countries.



SOLEDAD, Colombia, is a picturesque village around 4 centuries old. It attracts many tourists who stop at a nearby port, Barranquilla, on vacation cruises.



BANANAS GALORE in Panama. It and other Central American lands earn much of their income by selling the fruit to the United States and other countries.

The Story of the Week

Student Convention

Campaign interest runs high these days among high school students in the Rochester, New York, area. Next Friday, April 13, Benjamin Franklin High School will be the scene of a Model Democratic National Convention. More than 400 students, representing 53 high schools in Rochester and nearby suburbs, will participate in the all-day program.

The youthful politicians are undertaking 2 big jobs. They plan to draw up a party platform and to nominate Democratic candidates for the offices of President and Vice President.

Already a lot of hard work has been done on the party platform. Delegates will be called on to take a stand on such issues as foreign policy, national defense, civil rights, farm price supports, labor legislation, social security, conservation, and immigration.

Chief interest, of course, centers on the question of nominations. Will the student delegates select as their Presidential candidate Averell Harriman, Estes Kefauver, Adlai Stevenson—or perhaps a favorite son such as Lyndon Johnson, Frank Lausche, Stuart Symington, or Mennen Williams? Excitement will increase as the students, divided into state and territorial delegations, begin their balloting on Friday afternoon.

Eyes on London

The world is keeping a close watch on events in London. There, American, British, French, Canadian, and Russian representatives are trying to reach an agreement on global arms reductions. The 5 countries, which are members of the UN Disarmament Commission, began their talks about 3 weeks ago.

The London representatives have been going over a number of new disarmament proposals made by the western nations and by Moscow. These include suggestions that both sides reduce their troop strength, and that they open their territories to international military inspection.

It may be known before this paper reaches its readers whether or not the latest discussions will prove more successful than have past meetings on disarmament.

Immunity Law

The 5th Amendment to our Constitution says that *no person can be required to give testimony which might cause him to be convicted of a crime*. In past years, a number of individuals accused of being communists have refused to answer questions about themselves or others on the ground that it might "incriminate" them; in other words, get them in legal trouble.

In 1954, Congress passed a law giving our federal government the right to *compel* a witness to testify in any case involving national security. Congress kept the 5th Amendment in mind, however, by providing that a witness forced to testify would be immune (free) from federal court action for anything he said.

Some people have claimed that the Immunity Act, as it is called, violates our Constitution. One of these is William Ullmann, a one-time Treasury



STUDENT LEADERS as they make plans for Rochester's Model Democratic National Convention (see story). Seated (from left) are Barbara MacLachlan, general chairman, and Cathryn Milton, in charge of registrations. Standing (from left) are Jerry Solkoff, publicity; David Valenza, arrangements; Brenda Levison, convention secretary; Raymond Grabb, credentials.

Department employee accused of spying for the Reds. Ullmann refused to testify about his activities when asked to do so by a congressional committee. He was then tried and convicted of refusing to obey the Immunity Act. When his case came up to the Supreme Court for consideration recently, the justices decided against him.

From now on, therefore, witnesses accused of disloyalty can be forced to tell all they know about violations of our security laws. Uncle Sam plans to make wide use of the Immunity Law in tracking down disloyalty, even though it means that a few wrongdoers are likely to escape punishment.

Two Mints or Three?

In our paper dated March 12, we stated that all U. S. coins are now made at 2 federal mints—in Philadelphia and Denver. Since that time, we have received a number of letters asking: "What happened to the San Francisco mint?"

Here is the answer: The San Francisco mint stopped coining money a year ago last month. It is not ac-

tually closed, however. The U. S. government still receives and refines gold and silver there.

France Yields

Late last month, Paris signed an agreement with Tunisia under which that North African land was granted nearly complete independence, though the Tunisians will continue to have certain ties with France. Elections were held in Tunisia some 2 weeks ago and a new government is now being organized there. The North African land, with about 3,630,000 people, is a little larger than Florida.

Nearby Morocco, which has been the scene of bloody anti-French riots in the past, signed an independence agreement with France similar to that of Tunisia earlier in March. Morocco is a little smaller than California and has over 9,000,000 inhabitants.

Despite French moves to grant self-rule to some of their possessions, Paris is discouraging Algerian independence drives. The French regard Algeria as part of their country, and the North African territory sends repre-

sentatives to the legislature in France. Algeria is about 3 times the size of Texas, and 4 times the size of France. There are some 9,367,000 people in the French territory.

Missiles Chief

Eger Murphree has a tough assignment—he was named by Defense Secretary Charles Wilson to the new post of directing our nation's guided missiles program. As such, Mr. Murphree will be in charge of all Defense Department activities relating to research and production of our guided missiles. He has agreed to serve in the defense post for a year without pay.

The 57-year-old Murphree has been doing research and engineering work for more than 30 years. During much of this time, he has held top research posts with the Standard Oil Company. In the second World War, he worked on some of Uncle Sam's atomic energy research programs.

No Change Now

It seems unlikely that Congress, this year, will approve any constitutional amendment to change our nation's method of electing Presidents and Vice Presidents. (See AMERICAN OBSERVER dated February 13.)

Under the system we now use, *all the electoral votes* in any individual state go to the Presidential candidate who wins the *largest number of popular votes* there. Many Americans want to end this winner-take-all procedure, and set up a method under which states would split their electoral votes according to the *proportion* of popular votes received by each candidate.

During recent weeks, Congress has studied various plans for constitutional amendments that would bring about such a change. Proposals to amend the Constitution, however, need approval by a two-thirds majority in each house of Congress. A Senate vote late in March indicated that none of the various plans for changing our election machinery could, at present, win this much support.

School Study

A 10-man committee of educators and persons in other fields is about to undertake a special study of our high schools. The group was set up by President Eisenhower a short time ago. It will try to find out as much as possible about these and other questions:

1. Why are so many young people dropping out of high school before graduating?
2. How can we encourage more students to take science and mathematics courses?
3. What can we do to overcome the shortage of science teachers in our classrooms?
4. How can more of our able high school graduates be encouraged to continue their schooling after receiving their diplomas?

The 10-man committee is expected to have some of the answers to these questions by June, and it will make a full report of its findings late in the summer.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

I won't say that the orchestra was bad, but a waiter dropped a tray full of dishes and six couples got up to dance.

Two flies were discussing a relative who had just died.
"What happened to him?" asked one.
"He was struck just as he lighted on an adding machine," was the reply.
"Too bad," said the other. "I guess his number was up."

In a gay and carefree mood, a man telephoned a friend at two o'clock in the morning. "I hope I haven't disturbed you," he said cheerfully.
"Oh, no," the friend replied. "That's quite all right. I had to get up to answer the phone, anyway."

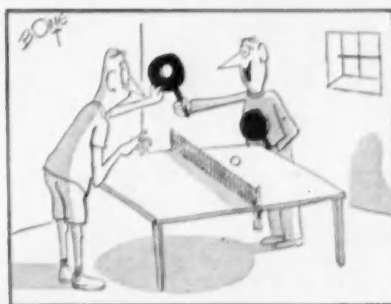
Waiter: Do you want a steak for \$2 or \$2.50?
Tourist: What's the difference?
Waiter: With the \$2.50 steak, you get a sharp knife.

Probably the world's greatest humorist is the man who named installments "easy payments."

Irate passenger: Madam, what do you mean by letting your child snatch off my wig?

Mother: Oh, what a relief! For a moment I was afraid he had scalped you.

Policeman (calling up precinct): A man has been robbed down here, and I've got one of them.
Chief: Which one have you?
Policeman: The man who was robbed.



"GOOD LUCK!"

Pronunciations

Adolfo Ruiz Cortines—ā-dawf'fō rwēs core-tē'nēs

Alberto F. Zubiría—āl-bērt'fō zōō-bir-ē'ā

Alfredo Stroessner—āl-frā'dō strōs'ner

Anastasio Somoza—ā-nās-tā'syō sō-mō'sā

Carlos Castillo Armas—kār'lōs kās-tēl'yō ār'mās

Carlos Ibañez—kār'lōs ē-bān'yās

Eduardo Lonardi—ād-wār'dō lō-nār'dē

Francisco Pizarro—frān-sēs'kō pī-zār'ō

Fulgencio Batista—fool-hen'see-o bā-tēs'tā

Gustavo Rojas Pinilla—gōōs-tā'vō rō'hās pī-nēl'yā

Héctor B. Trujillo—ēk'tawr B. trōō-hē'yō

Hernando Cortés—ēr-nān'dō core-tās'

José de San Martín—hō-zā' dā sām mār-tēn'

José Figueres—hō-zā' fē-gwār'ēs

José María Lemus—hō-zā' mā-rē'ā lē-mus

José Velasco Ibarra—hō-zā' vē-lās'kō ē-bār'rā

Julio Lozano Díaz—hōō'li-ō lō-zā'nō dē'ās

Juscelino Kubitschek—hōō'sē-lē'nō kōō-pēt'shēk

Manuel A. Odría—mā-nwēl' A. ō-drē'ā

Marcos Pérez Jiménez—mār'kōs pēr'ēz hē-mā'nēs

Miguel Hidalgo—mē-gēl' ē-dāl'gō

Oscar Osorio—ōs'kār ō-sore'i-ō

Paul E. Magloire—pawl E. māg-lwār'

Pedro Aramburu—pā'drō ā-rām-bōōr'-you

Ricardo Arias Espinosa—rī-kār'dō ā'ryās ēs-pī-nō'sā

Simón Bolívar—sē-mōn' bō-lē'vār

Victor Paz Estenssoro—vic-tawr pās ēstēn-sore'ō

(Geographic names mentioned in this issue are pronounced in any good dictionary.)

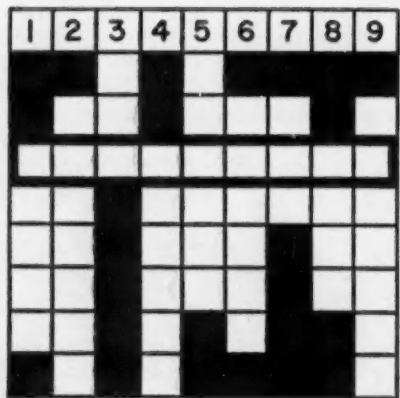
One of the most popular sports in South America is soccer. It attracts huge crowds in the larger cities. As many as 150,000 people have attended a soccer match in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In Central America, baseball has become one of the leading games played and watched.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in numbered vertical rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell a geographical location.

- Long, narrow Latin American republic.
- Big tin-producing country.
- Initials for the U.S.-Latin American association.
- We and _____ Latin American republics belong to the association.
- Big South American river.
- Largest Latin American republic.
- Venezuela produces and sells us large amounts of _____.
- Latin land close to Florida.
- Capital of Venezuela.



Last Issue

HORIZONTAL: Montgomery. VERTICAL: 1. Harriman; 2. Rhodes; 3. Virginia; 4. TV; 5. GI; 6. balloons; 7. jam; 8. Henry; 9. Mirza; 10. Cyprus.



PUBLIC RELATIONS counsel Earle Palmer Brown (center) of Washington, D. C., arranged this interview between client, L. B. Doggett, Jr., president of National Parking Association, and reporter Ray Vicars of the *Wall Street Journal*

A Career for Tomorrow

In Public Relations

PUBLIC relations is sometimes called "the art of shaping public opinion." Individuals and firms engaged in this work make use of publicity, advertising, and various other promotion techniques in the effort to build good will for the products, services, or reputations of their clients. Thus, public relations is a broader field than ordinary advertising—it uses a greater variety of tools and methods to achieve its purposes.

Your duties, if you choose this vocation, will be to deal with ideas and people. Among other things, you will write press releases and prepare booklets concerning your employer's activities. In addition, you will help shape your firm's program for dealing with the public.

Public relations experts employed by a labor union, for instance, may prepare a campaign to win the support of management and the public for a proposed pay raise for workers. On the other hand, members of this profession who are employed by an industrial firm may try to get Congress and the public behind certain legislation that the firm feels is needed.

Clients may be advised by their public relations counselors to cooperate with charitable organizations and other civic groups as a means of building good will for their firms and products.

Your qualifications should include intelligence, common sense, ingenuity, and the ability to get along well with people. One public relations official put the requirements for success in this field in these words: "To reach the top in public relations, one must have insight, inspiration, and, above all, good judgment."

Your preparation, while in high school, should include a college preparatory course with emphasis on English. Most of the better jobs in this field are held by college graduates.

A few colleges, such as Ohio State University and Boston University, offer degrees in public relations, and a number of others have courses in this relatively new field. If the college you plan to attend does not have such courses, you can prepare for your future career by majoring in journalism. Training and experience in newspaper

work are good steppingstones to a career in public relations.

Job opportunities are expected to grow steadily over the years in this expanding field. More and more business establishments, trade associations, government offices, and social groups in the country are employing persons trained in dealing with the public. In addition, there are opportunities for individuals to establish their own public relations firms.

Women, as well as men, can be and are successful in this vocation.

Your earnings, as a beginner, are likely to range from \$45 to \$70 a week. Most experienced persons earn between \$8,000 and \$15,000 annually, depending on the section of the country and the size of the city in which they work. A small minority with exceptional abilities have earnings that go much higher.

Advantages are (1) the work is usually interesting and challenging, giving you a chance to make full use of your talents; (2) the opportunities to get ahead are exceedingly good; and (3) the pay is excellent.

One disadvantage is the keen competition in the field for the better jobs. Also, the work can be a severe strain on your nervous system if you are not naturally equipped for it. You must have the ability to be both patient and aggressive—depending upon the circumstances. If you are easily upset when things don't go your way, stay out of this business.

Further information can be secured from the Public Relations Society of America, 2 West 46th Street, New York 36, N. Y.; or the American Public Relations Association, 1010 Vermont Avenue, N. W., Washington 5, D. C.

—By ANTON BERLE

Some day we may be able to visit our neighbors anywhere in the Western Hemisphere by driving over smooth, modern highways. When the Pan American Highway is finished, many of the countries on this side of the globe will be linked by one great network of roads.

There is still much work to be done on the highway, but progress is going forward.

News Quiz

Latin America

- What event is commemorated on April 14?
- Describe the area included in Latin America.
- What are the main physical features of this region?
- List the main groups of people living in the lands to the south.
- Name the major farm crops produced there.
- Why isn't farm production greater than it is?
- What industries does Latin America support?
- Compare general living standards in that region with those in the United States.
- Describe progress that is being made along economic lines.
- Why has reliance on a single crop or product made trouble for some of these lands?
- What has caused political instability in Latin America?
- Is the situation in this respect better or worse now than in the past?
- Describe trade ties between Latin America and the United States.
- In what other ways do we cooperate with our southern friends?
- How has the Soviet Union recently tried to extend its influence into this region? Has it been successful?
- Identify Pedro Aramburu, Juscelino Kubitschek, and Adolfo Ruiz Cortines.
- What does Peruvian President Odría say about his country's forthcoming election, and what do his opponents fear?
- Name some of the Spanish conquerors, and tell what areas they took over for Spain.
- Trace the development of the "Good Neighbor Policy."

Discussion

- In your opinion, what is Latin America's most serious problem? Explain.
- Do you or do you not think that the United States gives too little attention to Latin America as compared to Europe and Asia? Explain your views.
- Do you or do you not feel that communism offers much of a threat in the lands to the south of us? Give your reasons.

Miscellaneous

- Briefly describe the election-year activity being planned by high school students in Rochester, New York.
- What important meeting is now taking place in London?
- Describe the Immunity Law and tell why it has recently been in the news.
- How many federal mints do we have? Which of them turn out coins?
- Explain France's position with respect to these 3 North African lands: Tunisia; Morocco; Algeria.
- What new job does Eger Murphree have?
- List some of the questions to be considered by a committee of educators appointed by the President.

References

- "Days of the Latin Dictator," by Herbert L. Matthews, *The New York Times Magazine*, January 22, 1956.
- "Go South, Young Man," by Duncan Aikman, *Collier's*, January 6, 1956.
- "Brazil: The Man from Minas," President Kubitschek, *Time*, February 13, 1956.

Recent copies of *Americas*, monthly publication of the Pan American Union.

Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, next week's major articles will deal with (1) teen-age voting, and (2) Great Britain.